

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seeks written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for fecal coliform bacteria on an approximate six segments of the Coan River and three segments of the Little Wicomico River in Northumberland County.

The Coan River and Little Wicomico River impaired segments are located wholly within Northumberland County. These areas are identified in the Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Number 145, Coan River and the Glebe as; Area D. Long Cove; Area E; Killneck Creek; Area F. Stevens Point; and, Areas G, H, and I of the Coan River. The Little Wicomico River impaired segments are identified in the Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Number 105, Little Wicomico River, as Areas A and B and in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Number 180. Both the Coan River Segments and the Little Wicomico River segments are identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for fecal coliform bacteria.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and '62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

The first public meeting on the development of the Coan and Little Wicomico fecal coliform TMDLs will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. "New" Northumberland County Courts Building, 39 Judicial Place, Heathsville, Virginia. The physical location of the new facility is behind the "Old" Courthouse. Final water quality modeling results, fecal coliform bacteria source identification, and load allocations will be presented.

The public comment period will begin on March July 22, 2003, and end on August 20, 2003. Draft reports for the Coan River Watershed and the Little Wicomico River Watershed are available upon request from the Department of Environmental Quality website. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Chester Bigelow and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. Requests should be sent to Chester Bigelow, Department of Environmental Quality, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23240, telephone (804) 698-4554, Fax (804) 698-4116, or e-mail cbigelow@deq.state.va.us.